



General Services
STATE FLEET MANAGEMENT

Focus on Fleet

Spring/Summer 2006

*A publication of the SC Budget and Control Board
General Services Division
Office of State Fleet Management*

There's no such thing as Government money — there is only Taxpayer money.

From the State Fleet Manager

Come Visit Us

We have settled into our new facilities at 516 Senate Street (Motor Pool and Garage), and at 140 Stoneridge Drive (Administrative offices). The move to new facilities will allow State Fleet Management to be close enough to provide our services while making room for continued growth in the Vista.

The location at 516 Senate Street was renovated to accommodate the Garage and Motor Pool. The office space at 140 Stoneridge Drive (The Atrium office building) was vacated by staff from the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. We hope that you will visit us in our new locations whenever you have an opportunity.

Sales Tax Rebate for Flex-Fuel Vehicles

As fuel prices continue to rise, there is some good news for those agencies purchasing alternative fuel vehicles. For many years SFM has encouraged agencies to purchase Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs)

in response to the Federal EPA Act 92 mandates. (This legislation requires agencies to purchase 75% of their light-duty non-emergency response vehicles as AFVs.) Most of the vehicles purchased by agencies are Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs) designed to run on regular gasoline or E-85 fuel.

A proviso listed in part 1B of the 2006-2007 FY State Budget (scroll down to 72.113) provides for a sales tax rebate to agencies purchasing FFVs. The Department of Revenue will work together with SFM to coordinate the tax rebates to be paid to your agencies.

You will receive correspondence from SFM about this rebate opportunity as soon as details are settled with the Department of Revenue. It is our hope that agencies will use the money received to promote the use of alternative fuels in the operation of their vehicles.

*—Jeff McCormack
State Fleet Manager*

'Cause the Teams, They Are a-Changin'

State Fleet Management has experienced many changes over the years. Now the organizational structure has been updated to match the realities of State Fleet's mission. There are now only three teams within State Fleet.

- The **Operations Team**, led by **Jimmy Lever**, deals with the Motor Pool and the Long-Term Lease program.
- The **Maintenance Team**, led by **Ellese Portee**, covers maintenance for vehicles through the Central Transportation Maintenance Facility and the Commercial Vendor Repair Program; it also manages the Maintenance Facility Certification Program. **Robert Seawright** remains the supervisor of the CTMF and **Lin Wright** is supervisor of the CVRP.
- The **Compliance and Administration Team** comprises all the functions of the former Compliance and Analysis Team and the Program Support Team.

This team is led by **Daniel Youngblood**. Among the C&A team's responsibilities are the management of SCFIS, the administration of the State Fuel Card, billing and other financial matters, driver training and license screenings, and the purchasing and disposition of State vehicles. **Cheryl Swan** remains supervisor of the Program Support section of the Compliance and Administration Team.

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You might need CVRP if...

Plenty of good reasons to use Commercial Vendor Repair Program

If you operate a state vehicle and need quick and efficient vehicle servicing anywhere in South Carolina...

...you need to sign up with the Commercial Vendor Repair Program.

If you are an agency that needs to reduce your accounts payable receipts...

...you need to sign up with the Commercial Vendor Repair Program.

If you want to pay one time for all vehicles serviced or repaired during the previous month...

...you need to sign up with the Commercial Vendor Repair Program.

If you own a company that provides automotive service and you want to be selected to perform reoccurring work for thousands of state vehicles...

...you need to sign up with the Commercial Vendor Repair Program.

If your agency is obliged to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Mercury Study (Mercury Associates Inc.) which stated that "all agencies should use State Fleet Management's (SFM) repair program when vendor maintenance is required on light duty vehicles..."

...you need to sign up with the Commercial Vendor Repair Program.



*CVRP Procurement Specialist **James Allen** assists a customer. James handles much of the body work ordered through the Commercial Vendor Repair Program.*



*Commercial Vendor Repair Supervisor **Lin Wright** in his Atrium office.*

It has been demonstrated that large government owned fleets that use private sector vendors in specific repair services achieve the most cost effective maintenance possible. Some maintenance specialties such as body repairs, glass replacement, major component rebuilds, and other tasks can be accomplished more efficiently and effectively.

The Commercial Vendor Repair Program (CVRP) solicits bids from vendors statewide, awarding bids based on competitiveness rather than a single low bid in any particular area of the state. Bids that are not competitive are rejected, and the bidder is notified and encouraged to bid on future solicitations. The next three year agreement will commence on July 1, 2006.

To ensure each customer is provided the best possible services, vendors that service our vehicles receive a periodic quality control visit. Also, all invoices are reviewed to ensure that services performed were accomplished in a responsive and responsible manner.

We encourage you to explore CVRP for your automotive service needs. Remember that you can have your vehicle serviced in all 46 counties across the state. Because this program provides expanded locations, extended hours, cost avoidance, rapid responses, reduced paper work, it can be a total solution for all your vehicle service and repair needs. To learn more about CVRP call Lin Wright, 737-6398.

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Fuel Card Notes

New Fuel Card E-mail

If you need to send an E-mail message regarding the State Fuel Card, you can now use the address fuelcard@sc.gov. Messages sent to this address go to the fuel card administrator and two backup personnel who can handle things when the administrator is away from the office.

Make Mine Regular, Please

First, the good news: the price of crude oil fell on Friday (4 August).

The bad news? It only fell \$0.30.

The worse news? It still closed at \$75.62 a barrel.

Unless your vehicle requires midgrade or premium, you must purchase regular unleaded fuel. According to the terms of the Lease Agreement, agencies agree to abide by the policies concerning authorized fuel purchases. Most vehicles leased through State Fleet Management require regular unleaded or, when appropriate, E-85 fuel. The current fuel contract does not allow for discounts on midgrade and premium fuels.

State Fleet Management will be monitoring fuel card purchases very closely to ensure that drivers are purchasing only regular unleaded fuel. Any unauthorized purchases will be the responsibility of the leasing Agency. It is important that employees turn in receipts for all fuel purchases.

One of these things is not like the other...

Sometimes a driver will use a credit card for a different vehicle than the one he is fueling. This practice causes confusion and muddies the information on the vehicle records, especially the cost per mile information, so be sure the number on the license plate matches the tag number on the card.

Bon Voyage!

Linda Watts retires after 30 years of faithful service

On 31 May, Linda Watts brought her long and distinguished service to the State to an end with a memorable party in her honor. The fête was held in the downstairs meeting room at the Atrium, State Fleet Management's home since March 2006. Among the attendees were Linda's family, including her son Keith (also an employee at SFM), most of the employees of SFM, and many friends and colleagues from times past.

Linda began her career with State Fleet in 1976, when the agency was still called the Department of Motor Vehicle Management and was still a separate agency within the Budget and Control Board. She started as secretary to Allen Spence, but moved to the inventory control section when it was created in the early 1980s.

Among those who gave presentations were George Dorn, Director of the Division of General Services; Jeff McCormack, State Fleet Manager; and her supervisor, Daniel Youngblood.

"Some folks look upon retirement as a sad time, because they will miss their friends," said Mr. McCormack in his remarks. "In this case I am not sad, I am happy. I will miss Linda, but she is now receiving one of the best rewards a person



Linda holds up a framed collage of photos given to her by her colleagues.

can enjoy: retirement! Not only is she retiring, but she is retiring at a young enough age that she can actually enjoy it."

Besides her professional responsibilities, which she fulfilled with great integrity, Linda was also a valued friend to many in the State Fleet Management family.

Linda will be sorely missed, but she has taken great care to prepare her successor Marguerite Gibson and her two employees in the inventory section, Johnette Griffin and Melissia Stark, for the work ahead. State Fleet Management wishes Linda all the best in her well-earned retirement.



General Services Division
State Fleet Management
140 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 650
Columbia, SC 29210-8257



Our New Address

Just a reminder that State Fleet has moved. Here are our new addresses.

Please send all future correspondence to our main offices:

SC Budget and Control Board
General Services Division
State Fleet Management
140 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 650
Columbia, SC 29210

The Shop and Motor Pool are located at:

516 Senate Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Please do not send correspondence to the Shop address.